

136 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2871), only with performance measures based on the core indicators of performance described in section 136(b)(2)(A)(ii)(I) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2871(b)(2)(A)(ii)(I)), applied to all youth served through the activities.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. KOHL, and Mr. SESSIONS):

S. 2924. A bill to reauthorize the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, in the wake of its Centennial, and its programs and activities; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased today to introduce legislation to reauthorize the Department of Justice grant program for Boys & Girls Clubs. I thank Senator HATCH, Senator KOHL and Senator SESSIONS for joining me in this effort.

I have partnered with Senator HATCH for many years on issues concerning the Boys & Girls Clubs, and this bipartisan bill shows the commitment of both Democrats and Republicans to the good work done by Boys & Girls Clubs across the Nation.

Children are the future of our country, and we have a responsibility to make sure they are safe and secure. I know firsthand how well Boys & Girls Clubs work, and the real impact they have in our communities. In my home State of Vermont, we are fortunate to have 6 Boys & Girls Clubs operating in 25 locations. These clubs serve more than 14,000 youth in the State. I often hear from parents, educators, law enforcement officers and others in Vermont about just how successful these Clubs are, and how they inspire youth to reach their full potential.

As a senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I have pushed for more Federal funding for Boys & Girls Clubs. This year, I recommended additional funding for youth mentoring programs, so that youth-serving organizations like the Boys & Girls Clubs of America are able to continue making a substantial and real difference in the lives of vulnerable children. I was pleased that Congress included \$100 million for competitive youth mentoring grants in the recently passed consolidated appropriations bill.

The current recession has hit many organizations around the country, threatening their financial health, and the Boys & Girls Clubs are no different. At the same time, participation in these clubs has never been higher, and it continues to increase. I believe funding is well spent at the community level, however, where the positive impact on our youth is felt most directly.

In the 108th Congress, Senator HATCH and I worked together to pass a bill to reauthorize and extend the programs of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America through fiscal year 2009. Due in part to the support of Congress, there now exist over 4,300 Boys & Girls Clubs in all 50 states, serving more than 4.8 million young people. The bill we introduce today will help us continue to support these important programs by

authorizing Justice Department grants through 2015.

We need safe havens where our youth—the future of our country—can learn and grow up free from the influences of drugs, gangs and crime. That is why Boys & Girls Clubs are so important to our children.

I hope all Senators will support this bipartisan bill to provide Federal support for the Boys & Girls Clubs of America. Our greatest responsibility is to our children, and supporting Boys & Girls Clubs is just one way in which we can show our commitment to their future.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2924

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Boys & Girls Clubs Centennial Reauthorization Act of 2009”.

SEC. 2. BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF AMERICA.

Section 401 of the Economic Espionage Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 13751 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

“(A) for over 100 years, the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, a national organization chartered by an Act of Congress, has proven itself as a positive force in the communities it serves;

“(B) Boys & Girls Clubs and the programs and services implemented therein by over 50,000 professional staff, and 194,000 volunteers promote and enhance the development of boys and girls by instilling a sense of competence, usefulness, belonging and influence thereby making Boys & Girls Clubs a safe place to learn and grow;

“(C) the purpose of the program established by this section has been to provide adequate resources in the form of seed money for the Boys & Girls Clubs of America to assist local communities to form partnerships in a collaborative manner so education, youth development and prevention programs could be available for the youth in those communities;

“(D) in 1990 there were 1,810 Boys and Girls Clubs facilities throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and the United States Virgin Islands, serving 2,400,000 youths nationwide;

“(E) due to the public investment via the program established pursuant to this section, resulting congressional appropriations, and private partnership support, there are now 4,387 Boys & Girls Clubs facilities throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and the United States Virgin Islands, serving 4,500,000 youths nationwide;

“(F) with the assistance of the Federal Government, local communities have collaborated to establish and operate the Clubs in schools, parks, and recreation facilities, libraries, and community centers;

“(G) these new partnerships have resulted in 33 percent of the Boys & Girls Clubs located in or on school campuses where Club programs enhance and enrich the learning opportunities for youth;

“(H) the growth of Boys & Girls Clubs also includes an increase in Clubs located in public housing sites across the Nation, having grown from 289 in 1990 to 440 in 2009;

“(I) the growth of Boys and Girls Clubs also includes the growth of Boys & Girls Clubs on Native American land, having grown from 0 in 1990 to 225 in 2009 serving 140,000 Native American youth;

“(J) investment in our school partnerships has positively impacted graduation rates as demonstrated in recent survey of Clubs conducted by BGCA’s CareerLaunch career preparation program, in which 96.68 percent of participants progressed successfully to the next grade level at the end of the 2008-2009 school year;

“(K) public housing projects and Native American land in which there is an active Boys and Girls Club have experienced a reduction in the presence of crack cocaine, and a reduction in juvenile crime and gang violence;

“(L) Boys & Girls Clubs are locally run and have been exceptionally successful in balancing public funds with private sector donations and maximizing community involvement as evidenced by collaborations and partnerships with schools, cities, counties, Sea Research, other youth providers such as Big Brothers Big Sisters, Police Athletic League (PAL), Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H, and public libraries; and

“(M) further investment in Boys & Girls Clubs, which celebrated 100 years of service in 2006 will—

“(i) inure to our collective national benefit;

“(ii) continue to assist in the effort to reduce crime and drug use among our Nation’s youth by teaching young people how to avoid gangs, resist alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use;

“(iii) continue to assist in improving educational opportunities and create centers of learning in and with schools thereby reducing the drop out rate and helping to improve the economy (if the national male graduation rate were increased by only 5 percent, the Nation would see an annual savings of \$4,900,000,000 in crime related costs);

“(iv) continue in the efforts of reducing childhood obesity by teaching young people about the benefits of healthy habits such as eating right and being physically active;

“(v) continue to serve youth in rural communities including Native American land, by engaging and creating partnerships in those communities;

“(vi) continue to serve youth in urban and suburban communities including Public Housing by engaging and creating partnerships in those communities;

“(vii) continue to provide outdoor and environmental education programs for kids that would otherwise not have those educational and enriching opportunities;

“(viii) continue to develop job training programs for teens; and

“(ix) better equip communities to continue to sustain and improve the quality of these programs through effective use of existing resources, merging operations, and working collaboratively within communities to provide the highest quality programs for the youth in the Boys & Girls Clubs.”;

(2) in subsection (c)(1)—

(A) by striking “2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010” and inserting “2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015”; and

(B) by striking “establishing and extending Boys & Girls Clubs facilities where needed, with particular emphasis placed on establishing clubs in and extending services to public housing projects and distressed areas” and inserting “improving the quality of youth development and educational programs, health, physical fitness, and prevention services for youth at existing and new